

neighborhoods

Charlotte Moro Begins Four-Year Term

Carbondale Gets First Woman Mayor

By RAY RINALDI
History was made Monday at Carbondale City Hall when Charlotte Moro was sworn in as mayor by Judge James Munley, thus becoming the first woman mayor

in the city's history, and the first Democrat elected to that office in over 20 years. Before an overflow crowd of relatives and friends assembled in council chambers, Mrs. Moro and

five members of Council were administered the oath of office by Judge Munley at 12:15 in separate ceremonies. Also taking the oath were returning Councilmen

Albert Calzola, Andy Leo, Donald McDonough, Frank Grecco Jr., and newcomer John Moran. Following the brief ceremonies Mayor Moro's first official act was to ap-

point Acting Chief Francis Dottle to full status of chief of police, following through on a promise she made during her campaign.

Mrs. Moro then appointed John Kearney finance director, stating "at the moment I can do without a city administrator. I intend to be in my office every day and will handle those duties until I can hire a qualified city manager, but I need a finance director immediately and Jack (Kearney) has the qualifications for the job."

In attendance at the ceremonies was Sen. Robert Mellow, an avid supporter of Mrs. Moro from the outset. In brief remarks, Mellow touched on the close relationship between he and Mrs. Moro, and pledged his personal support and the support of his office in helping the new mayor and the City of Carbondale.

"Remember what you just said," Mrs. Moro said, "because you're the first one I'm going to turn to."

A buffet in the second floor corridors followed the ceremonies. The full text of Mrs. Moro's statement follows:

"Today marks the end of a journey which began one year ago when, with a small group of loyal friends and supporters I set out to become mayor of our city. Now that the journey is over, a new and much more difficult one begins.

"We all know that our city is deep in debt. We all know that morale of our city

employees is at an all time low. We all know that our street department equipment is both old and is a state of disrepair and we have no money to buy new equipment, so that our streets do not look like they've looked during the two recent storms. We all know we need more policemen.

"There is a lot to be done and this first year, as we try to get our city's government back on the right track, is going to be the most difficult of all.

"When I ran for mayor of Carbondale I pledged a full time commitment to the job ahead. I repeat that pledge today. It's going to take long hours and hard work and commitment from everyone involved.

"I call on our city council to work with me in a new spirit of cooperation so together we can get the job done.

"I call on all city employees to join with me in a new spirit of doing the best job they can for the people who pay their paychecks — the people of Carbondale.

"And I call on the people of Carbondale to join with me in working towards our goals. Give us your ideas. If you want to volunteer, the doors at city hall will be open. I also call on the people of Carbondale to bear with us during this first trying year. There are many things to be done and we can't solve all of the city's problems overnight, but we're going to give our best.

"Many of you know me personally. Some of you do not. For those who may not

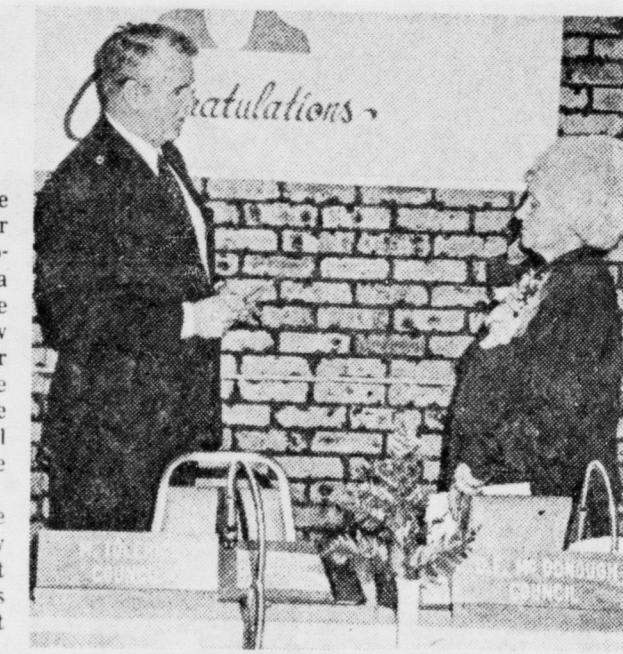
know me well I want to say I'm going to be a tough mayor, but a fair mayor. I'll fight for the best interests of our city when I have to, but I'll always be open to cooperation whether it be with city council of private citizens.

"My decisions will not always be popular ones, but they will be well thought out and in the best interests of our city. Some of those decisions are going to be hard ones, but considering the sorry condition of our city government today, hard decisions are going to be necessary.

"Within the next month I'll be forming my mayor's advisory committee, picking the key people in my administration, and putting competent people on our many city commissions,

board and authorities and reactivating those boards, commissions and authorities. At the same time, we'll be in contact with Harrisburg and Washington about programs for our city. And we'll be working to bring about a more economical and efficient city government operation as well as exploring ways to reduce our debt and improve our equipment and city services.

"I'm going to do my best and so is everyone who works for the city. And as I said when I ran for mayor, I'm always going to tell the people of Carbondale the truth. And so will everyone who works for our city. Starting today, there's going to be a new kind of city government at city hall. I want to make Carbondale proud again, and here is where we are going to start."



MAKING HISTORY — Judge James Munley administers oath of office as Charlotte Moro becomes the first woman Mayor in the 132-year history of the city of Carbondale.



COUNCILMEN TAKE OATH — Judge James Munley, left, administers oath of office to Carbondale City Councilmen, left to right, Albert Calzola, John Moran, Andrew Leo, Frank Grecco Jr. and Donald McDonough.

Kearney Named Finance Chief

John Kearney, 51, has been appointed finance director of the City of Carbondale by Mayor Charlotte Moro.

Mrs. Moro named Kearney shortly after ceremonies held Monday in council chambers swearing her in as Mayor.

No stranger at City Hall, Kearney is a former city assessor, a former school director and former city Democratic chairman.

A graduate of Benjamin Franklin High School, he attended Lackawanna Junior College and completed advanced courses in accounting at Broome Tech, Binghamton. He also completed courses in accounting at Temple University.

He was formerly associated with Gingham Manufacturing Co., Scranton, for three years as controller, and worked in the accounting division of Anso Corp., Binghamton, and was, for the past 15 years, a purchaser with the Hendrick Manufacturing Co.

A veteran of the Korean Conflict, he is married to the former Rosemary Moran. They have three children, Kathleen Mahar, Rosemary Corrigan and John Jr., a senior at Kutztown University. The Kearneys reside at 12-9th Ave., Carbondale.



John Kearney

Kearney has played an active role in community affairs, serving on the Board of Directors of local chapter of the Red Cross; secretary-treasurer of the Columbia Hose Co.; former treasurer of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; a member of the executive committee of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

He also served on the executive committee of the County Democratic Party and is a former vice-president of the Kiwanis Club.

01-03-1984, p. 1